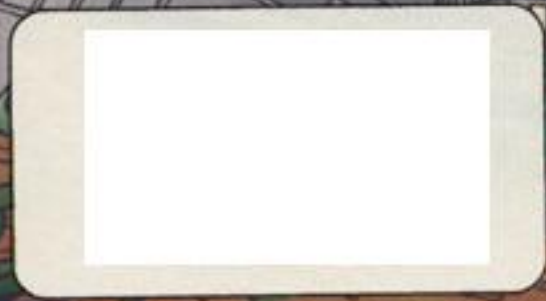


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THE ECHIDNA

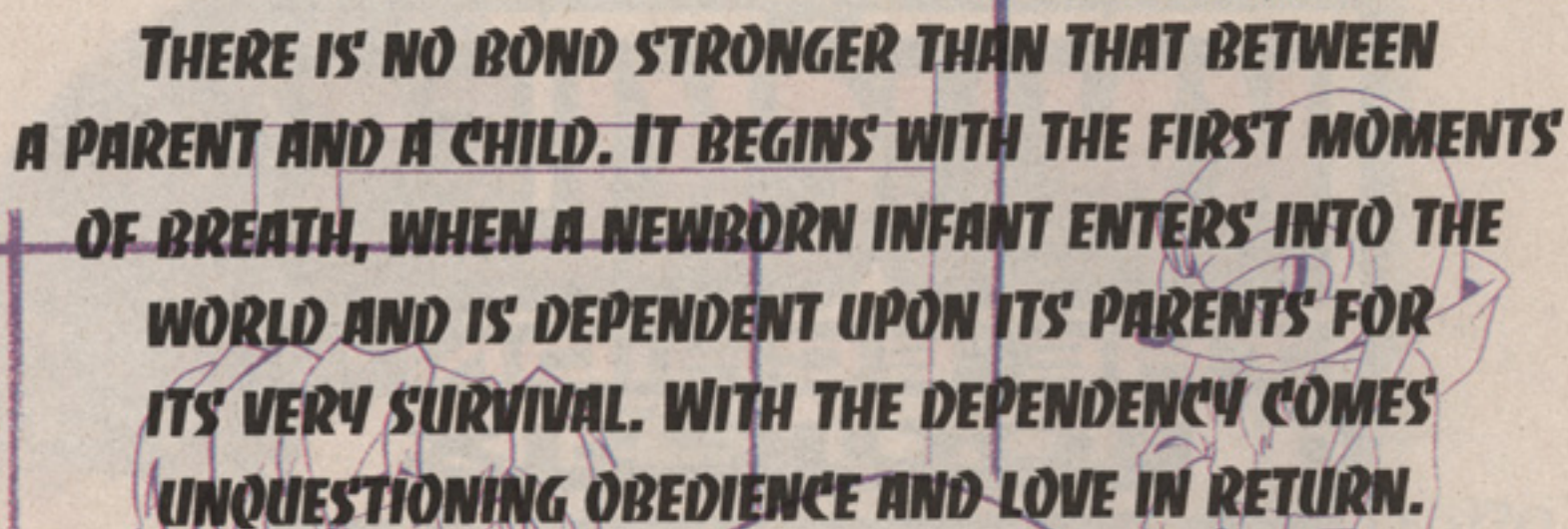
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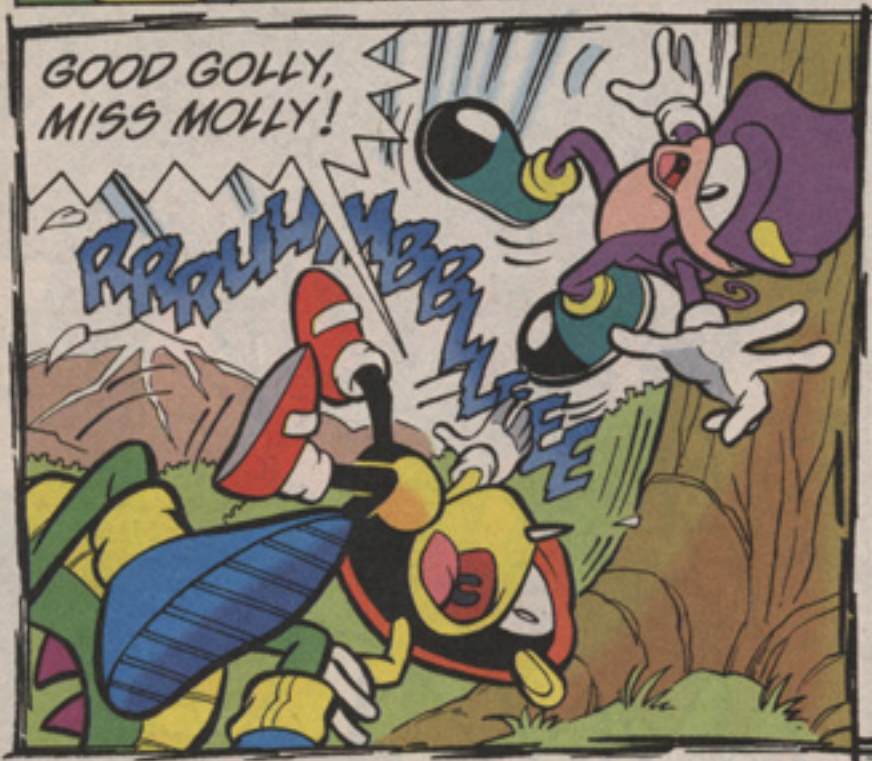


THERE IS NO BOND STRONGER THAN THAT BETWEEN A PARENT AND A CHILD. IT BEGINS WITH THE FIRST MOMENTS OF BREATH, WHEN A NEWBORN INFANT ENTERS INTO THE WORLD AND IS DEPENDENT UPON ITS PARENTS FOR ITS VERY SURVIVAL. WITH THE DEPENDENCY COMES UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE AND LOVE IN RETURN.

BECAUSE THE CHILD'S FORTUNES ARE SO LINKED WITH WHATEVER BEFALLS THE PARENTS, AS THE CHILD BEGINS TO GROW AND LEARN ABOUT HIS SURROUNDINGS, HE, AT FIRST, ACCEPTS MUCH OF WHAT HE SEES AS THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH. IT IS ONLY WHEN THE CHILD BEGINS TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO SEE BEHIND THE SO-CALLED TRUTHS, THAT HE BEGINS TO SEEK THE REAL ANSWERS.

KNUCKLES HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION THAT WHICH HE HAS LEARNED AND EXPERIENCED. BEYOND THE QUESTION, THOUGH, IS ONE SIMPLE BASIC TRUTH THAT STANDS BEFORE ALL ELSE. NO MATTER WHAT HAS GONE ON BEFORE, HE LOVES HIS PARENTS ABOVE ALL ELSE, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR ESTRANGED RELATIONSHIP.

WITH HIS MOTHER NOW IN HARM'S WAY, KNUCKLES IS READY TO DO WHAT ANY SON WOULD DO, EVEN AT THE COST OF HIS OWN LIFE...



"I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'D LAY
ODDS KNUCKLES DOES."

BAMF!

ALRIGHT!
TIME TO KICK SOME
DINGO BU--

PATIENCE!

LET
THEM COME
TO US!

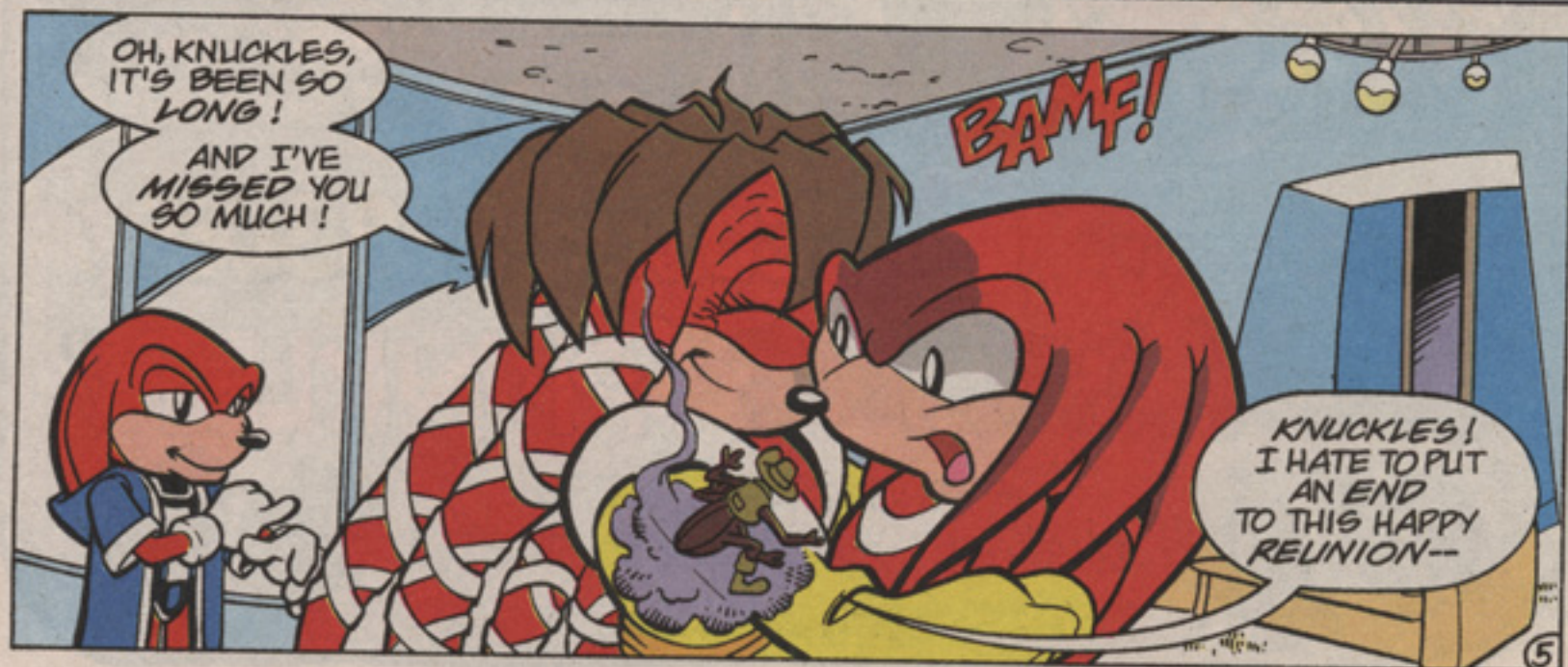
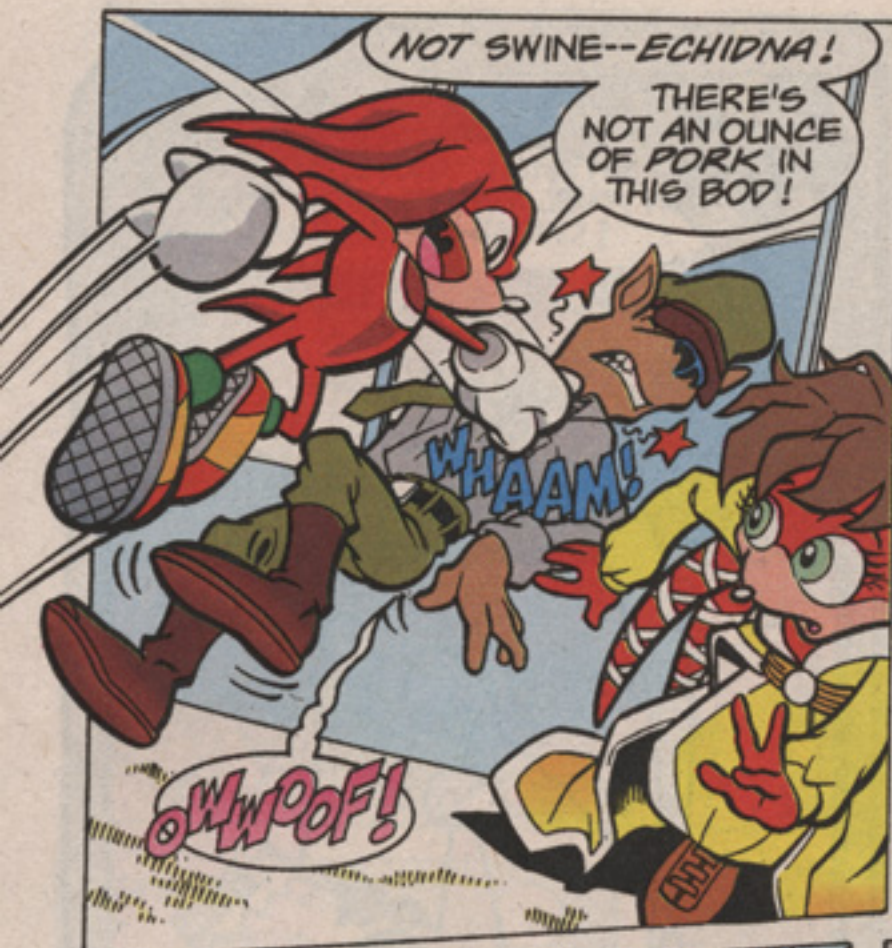
WHILE THOSE
DONKEYS DOWNSTAIRS
THINK WE'RE
NEGOTIATING OVER
THE HOSTAGES, LET'S
GET READY TO MOVE
OUT!





ZERO HOUR... AND COUNTING





"--BUT WE'VE GOT COMPANY COMING, AND I DON'T THINK THEY PARTICULARLY LIKE US!"

DOWN THIS WAY, TROOPS!

SOUNDS LIKE THE SQUADRON COMMANDER HAS HIS HANDS FULL!



WE'RE TOO LATE!

CHECK ALL THE ROOMS! WHOEVER DID THIS HAS TO BE HERE!



WAIT!

NOT TO WORRY, VERMIN--

WE'RE FADING OUT!



"--WE HAVEN'T FAILED THE GENERAL! I'M SURE HE'LL BE QUITE PLEASED WITH WHAT WE HAVE!"

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU, CONSTABLE!

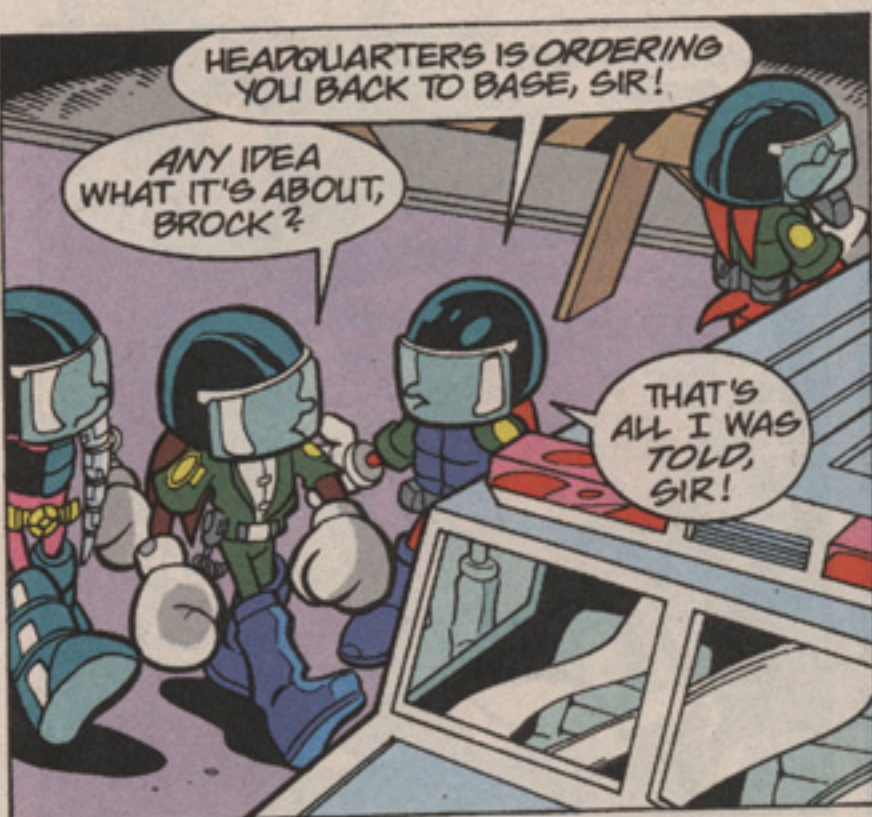
EH?



HEADQUARTERS IS ORDERING YOU BACK TO BASE, SIR!

ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S ABOUT, BROCK?

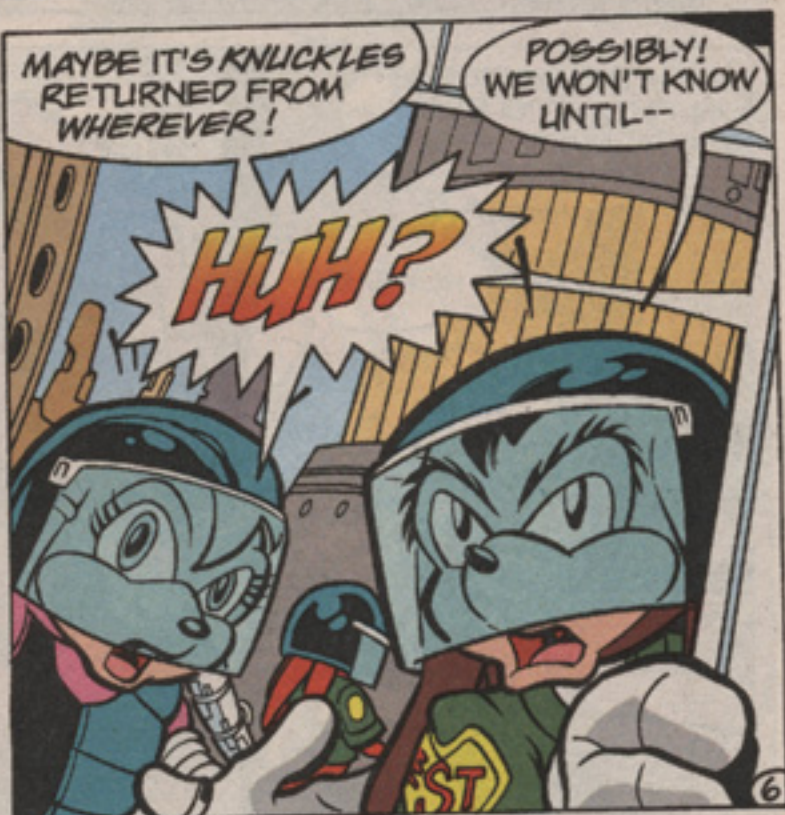
THAT'S ALL I WAS TOLD, SIR!



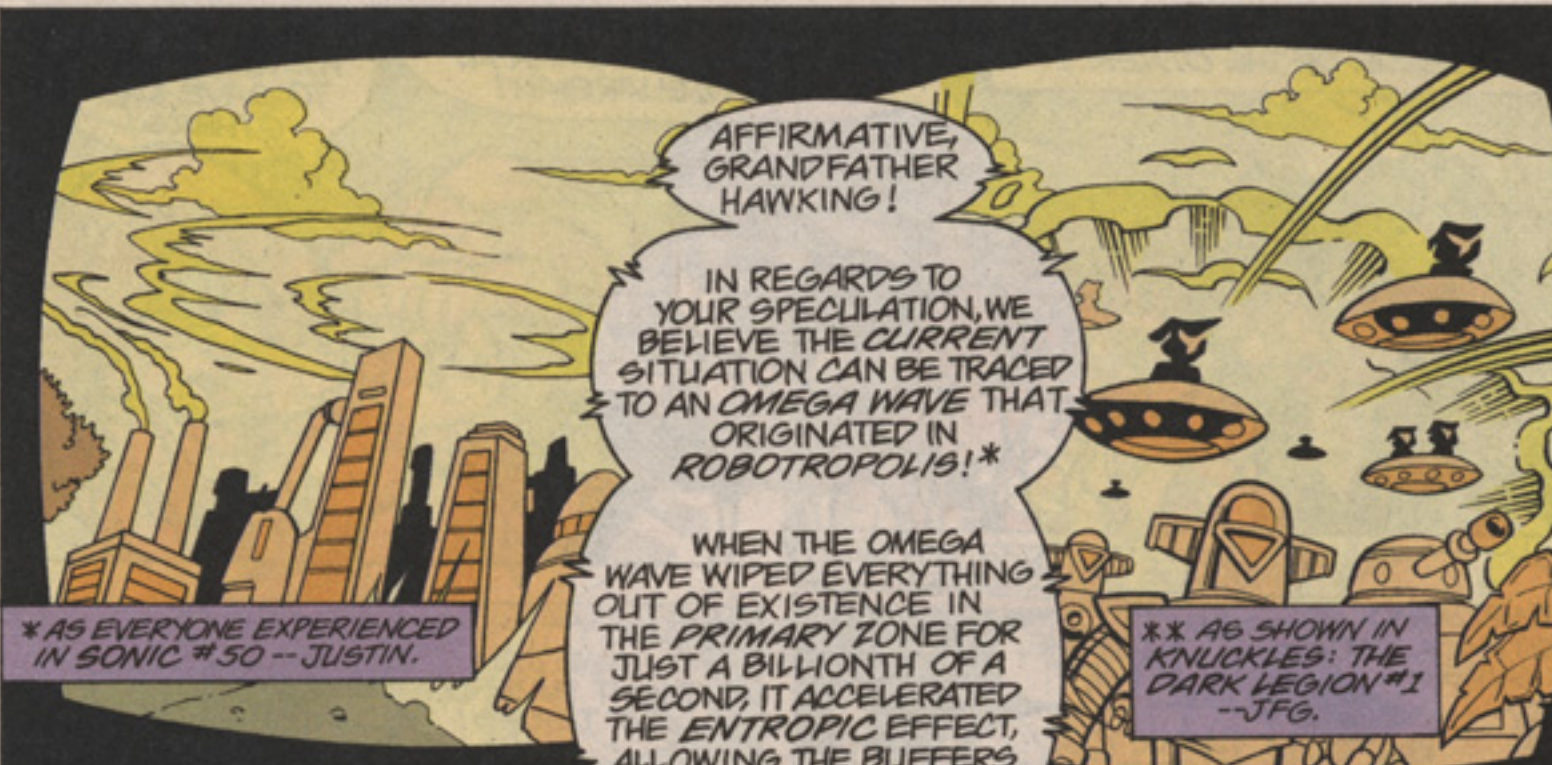
MAYBE IT'S KNUCKLES RETURNED FROM WHEREVER!

POSSIBLY! WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL--

HUH?







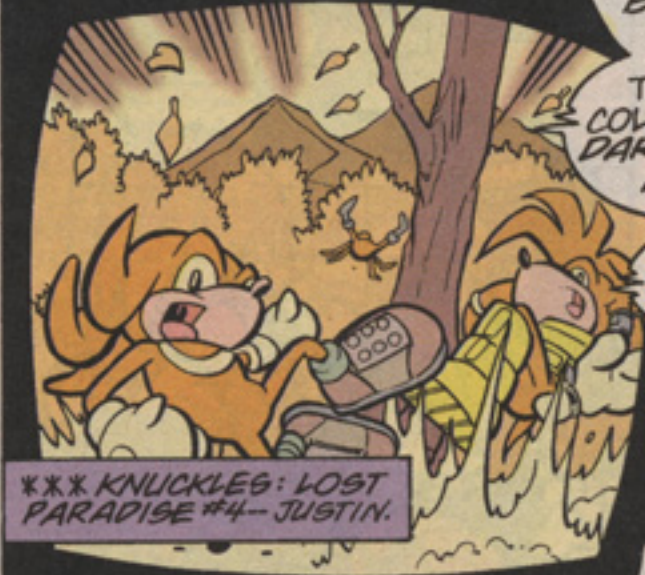
AFFIRMATIVE,
GRANDFATHER
HAWKING!

IN REGARDS TO
YOUR SPECULATION, WE
BELIEVE THE CURRENT
SITUATION CAN BE TRACED
TO AN OMEGA WAVE THAT
ORIGINATED IN
ROBOTROPOLIS!*

* AS EVERYONE EXPERIENCED
IN SONIC #50 -- JUSTIN.

WHEN THE OMEGA
WAVE WIPEDED EVERYTHING
OUT OF EXISTENCE IN
THE PRIMARY ZONE FOR
JUST A BILLIONTH OF A
SECOND, IT ACCELERATED
THE ENTROPIC EFFECT,
ALLOWING THE BUFFERS
BETWEEN ZONES TO
BREAK DOWN!

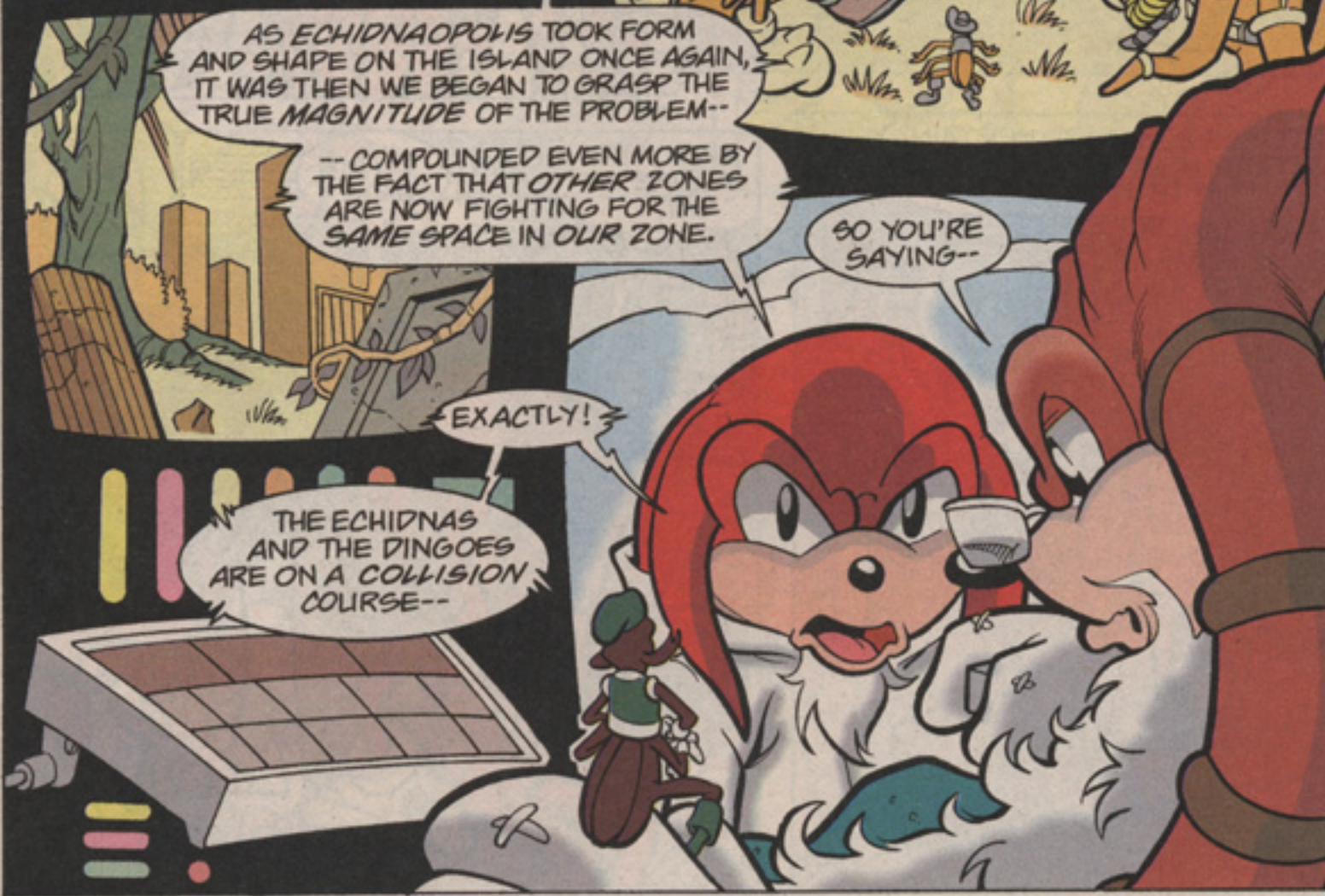
** AS SHOWN IN
KNUCKLES: THE
DARK LEGION #1
--JFG.



THE FIRST SIGN OF ZONE
COLLAPSE OCCURRED WHEN THE
DARK LEGION INVADED THE
FLOATING ISLAND! **

FURTHER EVIDENCE
EMERGED WHEN SEISMIC
SHOCKWAVES ERUPTED IN THE
MARBLE ZONE -- ***

*** KNUCKLES: LOST
PARADISE #4 -- JUSTIN.



AS ECHIDNAOPOLIS TOOK FORM
AND SHAPE ON THE ISLAND ONCE AGAIN,
IT WAS THEN WE BEGAN TO GRASP THE
TRUE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM--

-- COMPOUNDED EVEN MORE BY
THE FACT THAT OTHER ZONES
ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR THE
SAME SPACE IN OUR ZONE.

SO YOU'RE
SAYING--

EXACTLY!

THE ECHIDNAS
AND THE DINGOES
ARE ON A COLLISION
COURSE--

"... AND ONLY ONE CAN SURVIVE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER ! "

THAT WAS PRUDENT ON YOUR PART TO GET LADY LARA-LE TO SAFETY, GUARDIAN!

YEAH, BUT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO SAVE THE OTHERS!

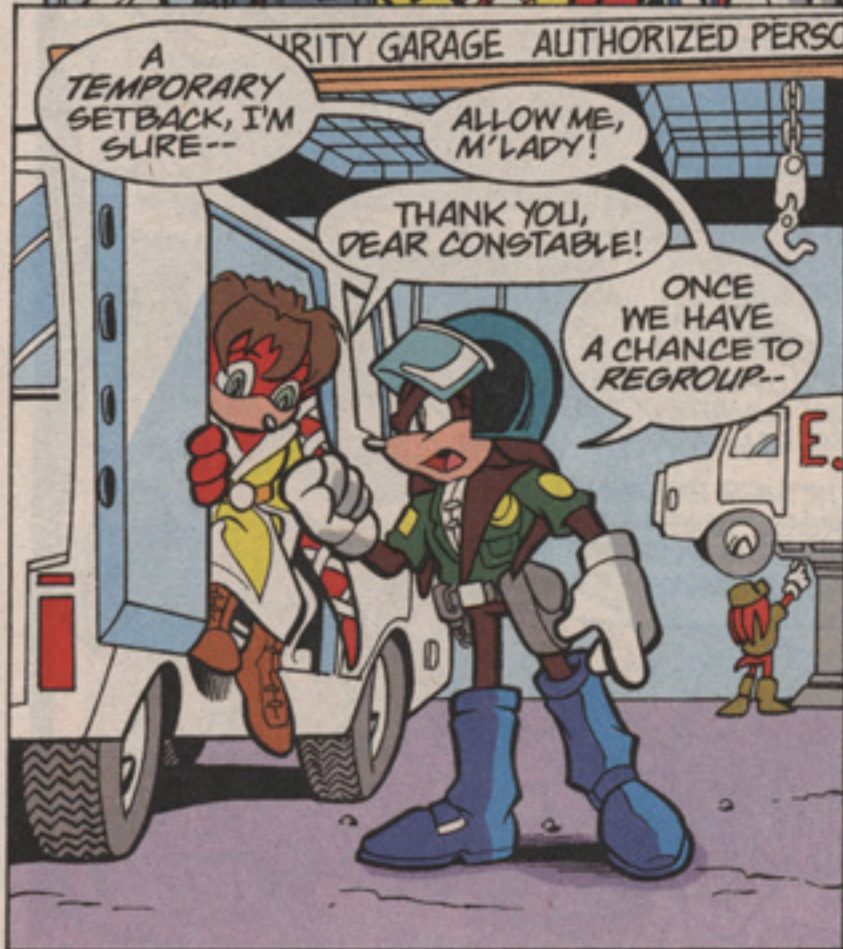


A TEMPORARY SETBACK, I'M SURE--

ALLOW ME, M'LADY!

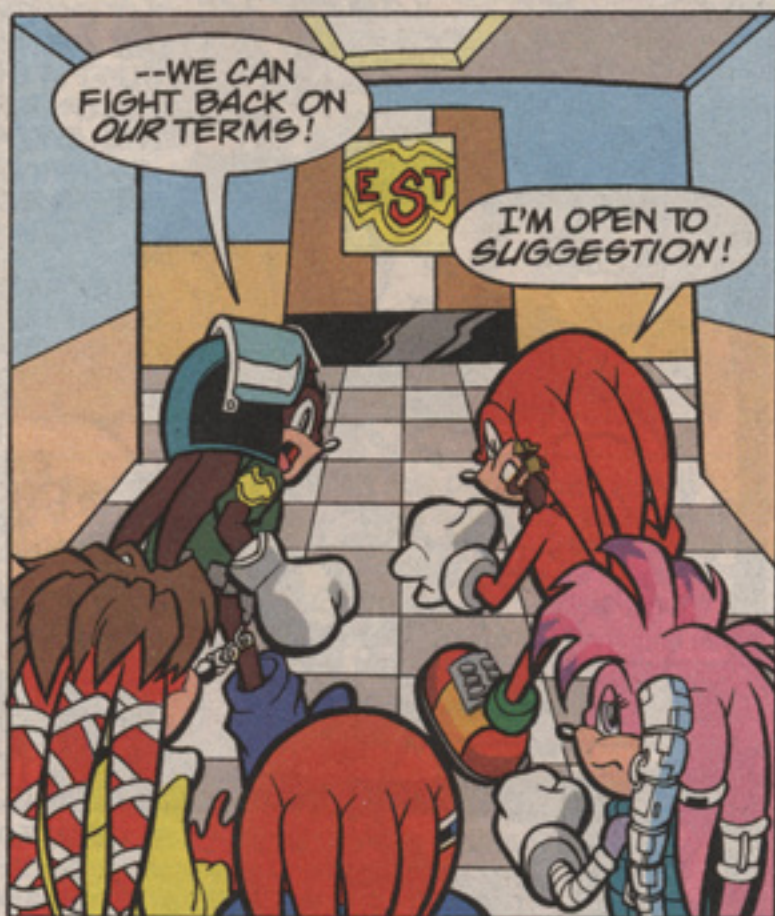
THANK YOU, DEAR CONSTABLE!

ONCE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO REGROUP--



--WE CAN FIGHT BACK ON OUR TERMS!

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTION!



AFTER I'VE SEEN TO CERTAIN MATTERS NEEDING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!

YOU CAN RELAX IN MY OFFICE IN THE MEANTIME!



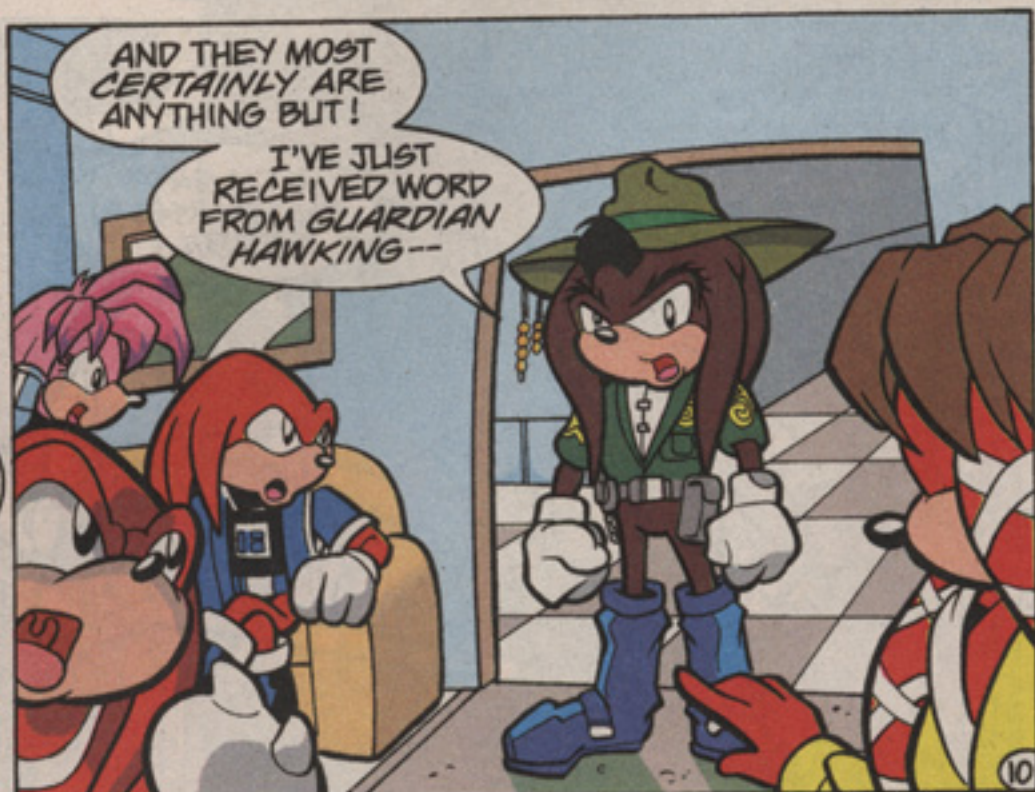
ARCHY--GO SCOPE 'IM OUT!

ON MY WAY!

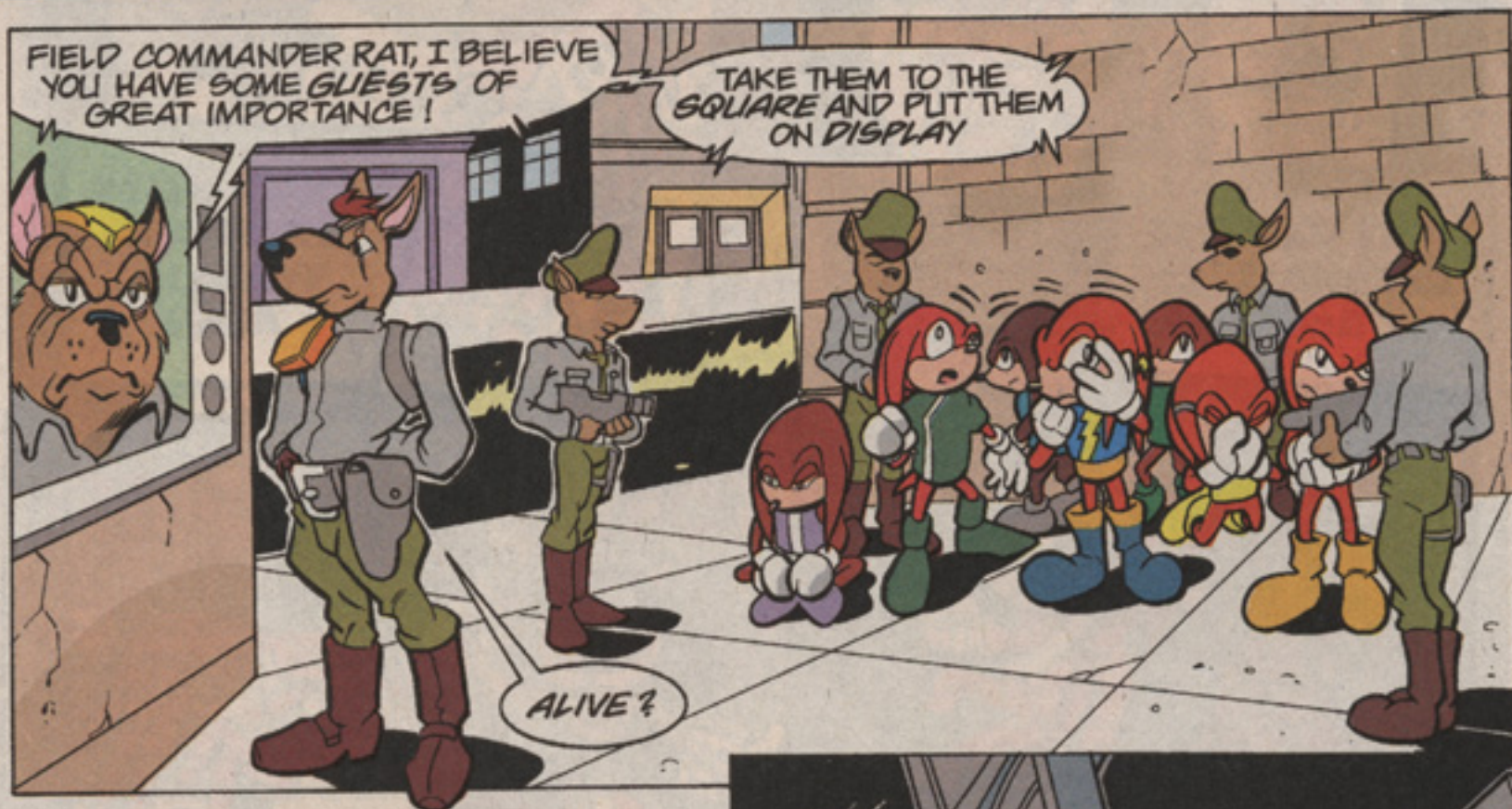
BAMF!

DO YOU EVER GET USED TO THAT?



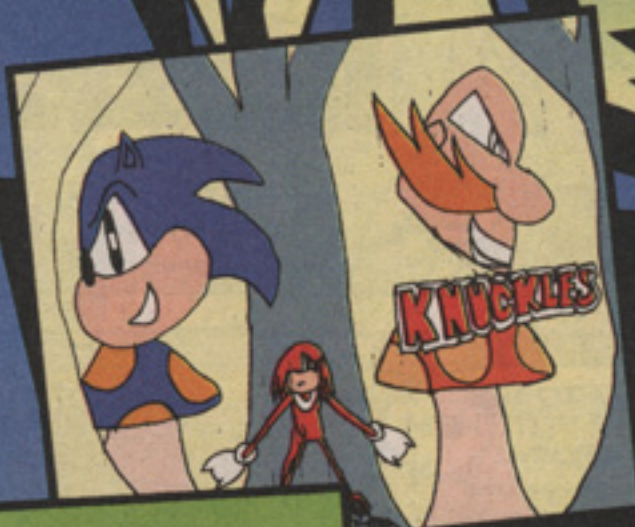






FAN ART

KNUCKLES



JOEY GANTNER
CORNWALL, CT
Age 12



ROBERT WILDE
STRATFORD,
ONTARIO
AGE 8



PATTY YORK
MOLINE, IL



MICAH W. ZAK
NAVSUPACT,
NAPLES

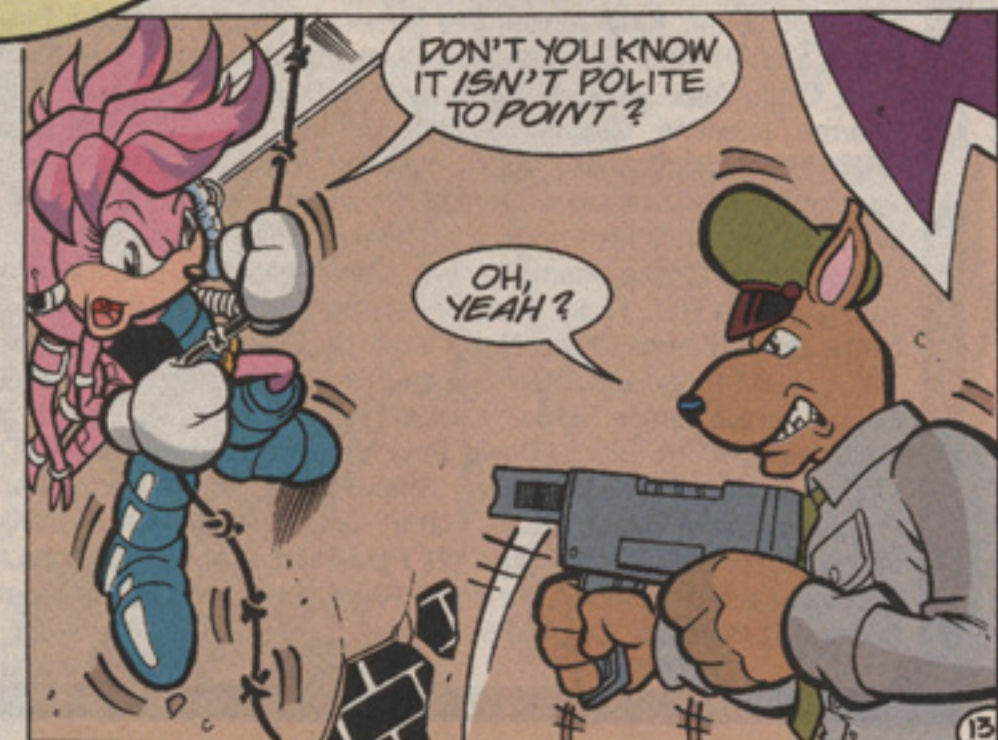
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EAT MY PLASMA, BABY!



SORRY! WRONG FLAVOR!
AT LEAST YOU'RE USEFUL FOR SOMETHING!

WHUMP!



LISTEN, GRUESOME, I NEED TO RAP WITH YOUR MASTER! WHERE IS HE?

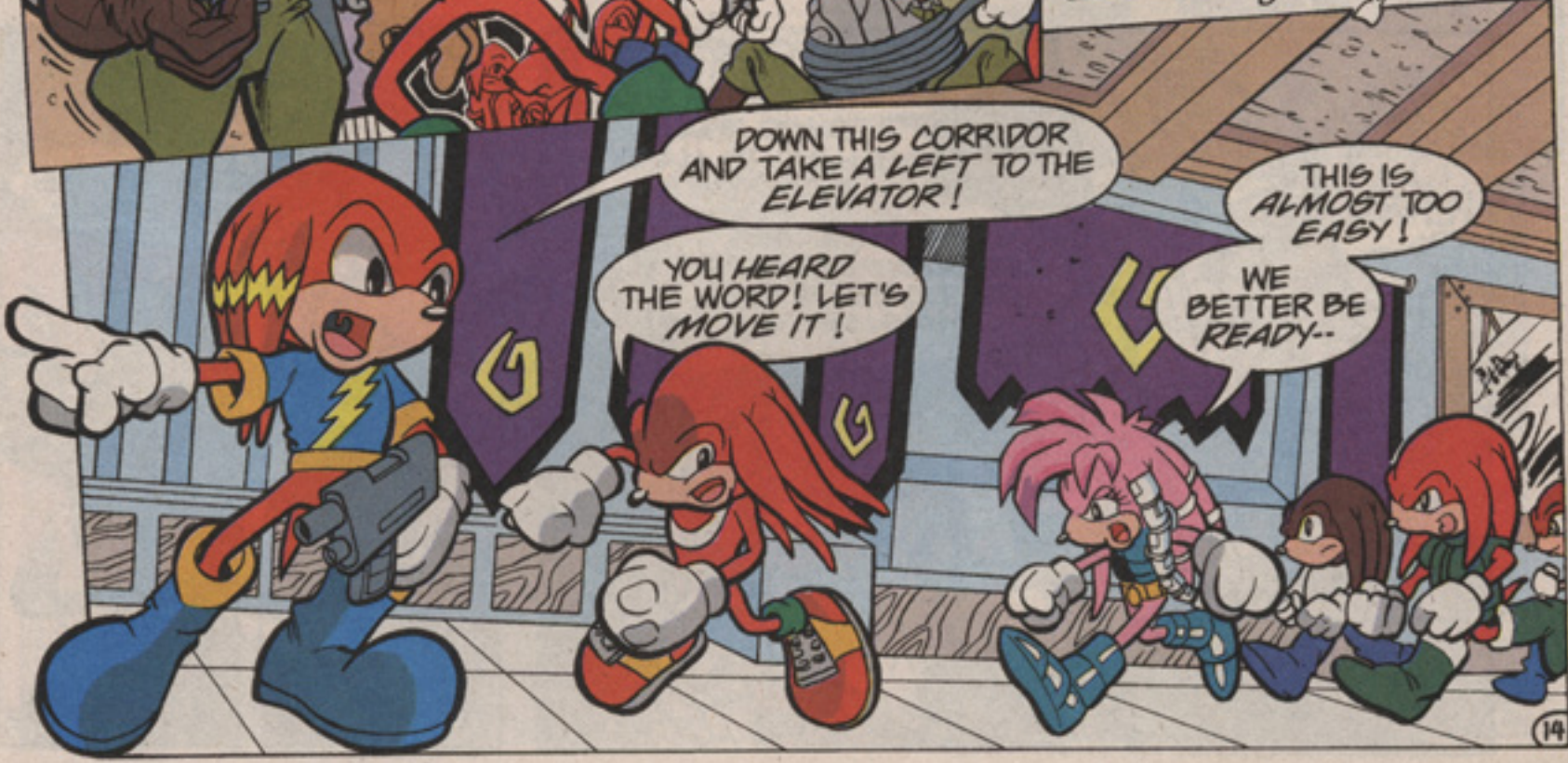
WHY SHOULD I TELL ECHIDNA GARBAGE LIKE YOU?

WE CAN SHOW YOU WHERE, MY FRIEND! WE SAW HIM NOT LONG AGO!



TOO BAD FOR YOU, PAL!

WHAM!

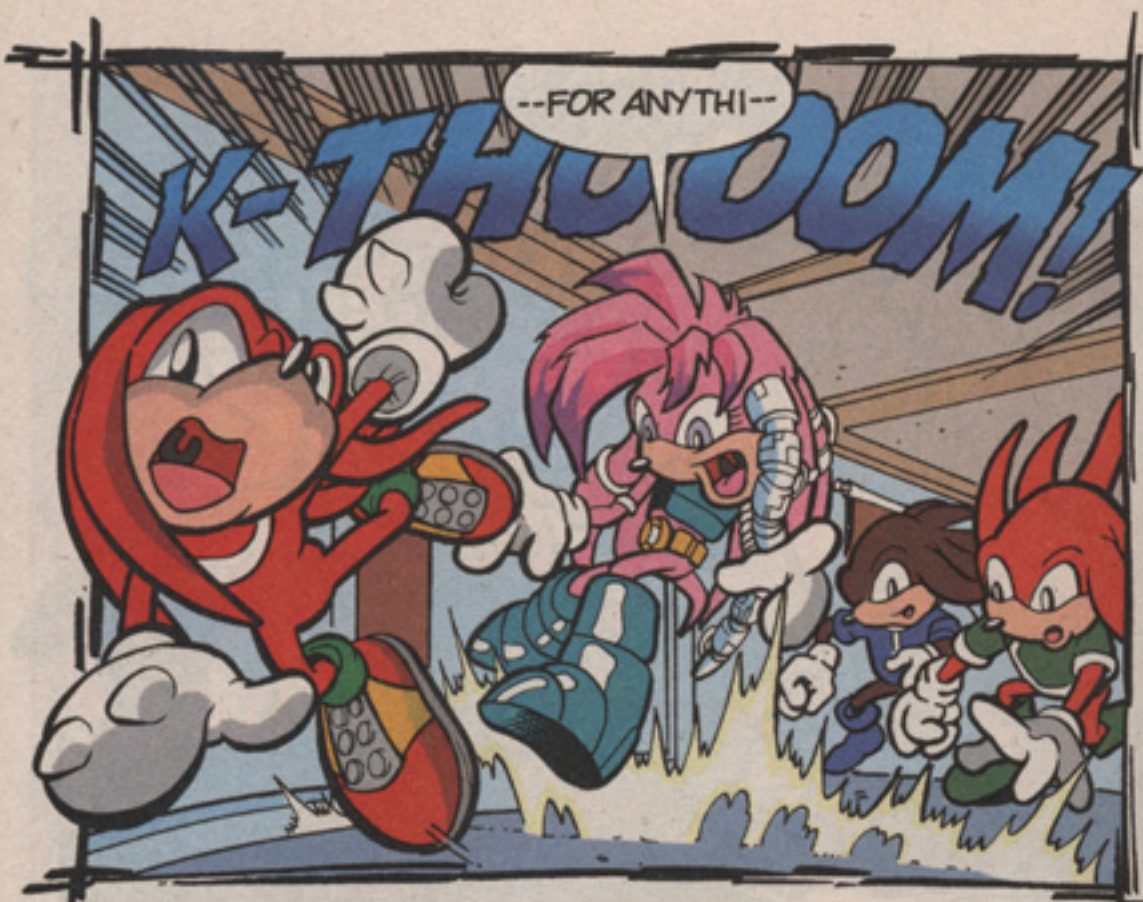


DOWN THIS CORRIDOR AND TAKE A LEFT TO THE ELEVATOR!

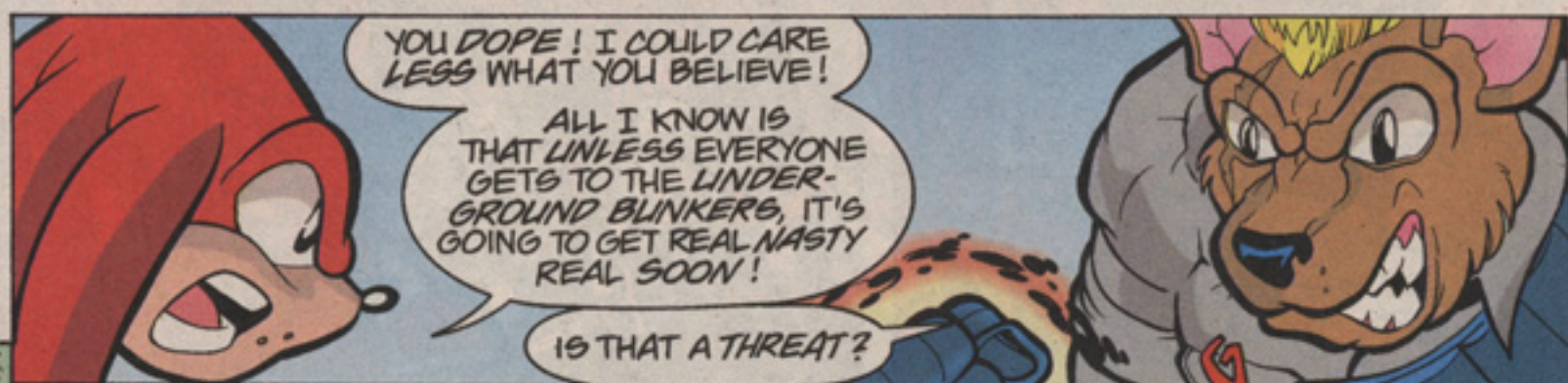
YOU HEARD THE WORD! LET'S MOVE IT!

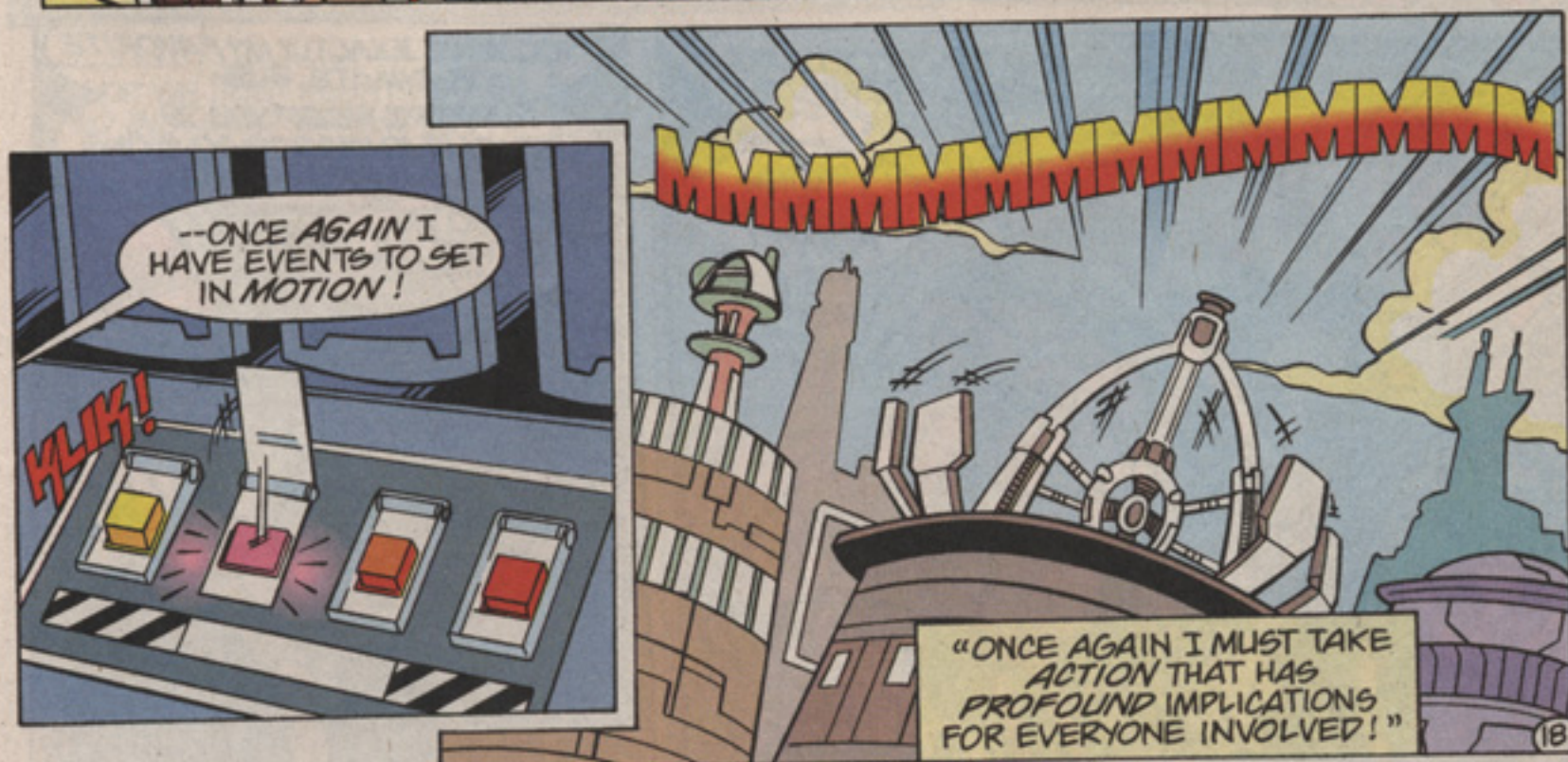
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!

WE BETTER BE READY--









"SUCH IS THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF A GUARDIAN!"

NO LONGER WILL MY PEOPLE
SUFFER AT THE HANDS
OF YOUR KIND!

DO
YOU HEAR
ME?



CRYSTAL,
BABE!

PERSONALLY,
I THINK YOU NEED
OTHER OUTLETS FOR
YOUR AGGRESSIVE
NATURE!



LET'S SEE HOW
FUNNY YOU ARE
WHEN I--

OOF!

ZZZRRIP!

YOU
DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU?

JUST HOLD
THAT POSE--



--AND I'LL TRY TO MAKE
MYSELF PERFECTLY
CLEAR!

I THINK
HE GOT THE
POINT!



YOU AIN'T EXACTLY MY FAVORITE
PLAYMATE, BLUB--

--BUT I NEED YOU TO
GET YOUR THINGS TO GO ALONG
WITH THE PROGRAM!

SO WE
EITHER CALL A
TRUCE--





"--THERE ARE SOMETIMES THINGS
BEYOND OUR CONTROL?"

"WHY DON'T WE
SKEEDADDLE FIRST--"

BARRHUM! **KRA-KROOM!**

--AND DISCUSS
LATER?

NOW THAT'S
WHAT I CALL GETTING
THERE!

GENERAL STRYKER!
WHAT ARE
YOUR ORDERS,
SIR?

"THAT DEPENDS--ON WHAT'S
STILL STANDING ON THE
SURFACE!"

CONSTABLE REMINGTON! WILL
YOU LOOK AT THAT?!!

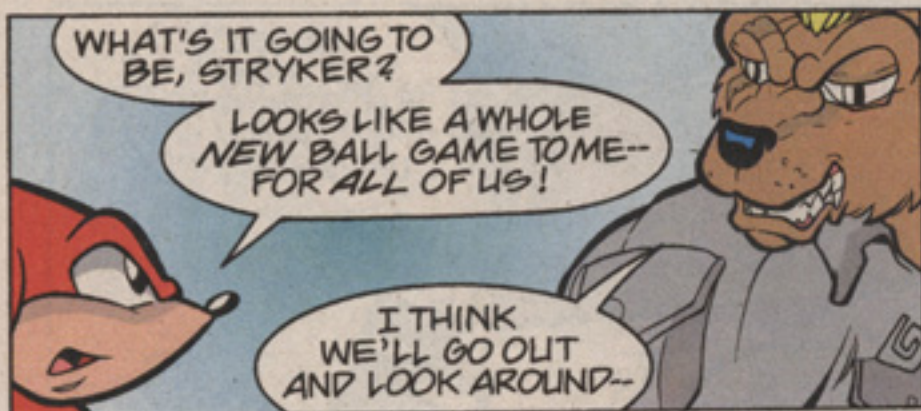
IT'S DINGOES!!

SIR! IT'S SOME
KIND OF ECHIDNA
TRICK!

MOVE AWAY,
GUARDIAN, SO I--

FIRST ONE TO
SWING ANSWERS
TO ME!

RIGHT ABOUT
NOW, I FIGURE
COOL THINKING
IS CALLED
FOR!



WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, STRYKER?

LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME TO ME-- FOR ALL OF US!

I THINK WE'LL GO OUT AND LOOK AROUND--



--THEN WE'LL SPEAK!

I DOUBT EITHER SIDE WAS A WINNER TODAY!

FOR ONCE--



--I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

AT LEAST ECHIDNAOPOLIS IS STANDING!



THERE'S CATWEAZLE OVER-HEAD! WE MUST BE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

THAT MUST MEAN--

ARCHY! WE HAVE TO CHECK ON GRANDFATHER HAWKING!



WHAT A MESS! DO YOU THINK--?

BAMF!

I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO CAN HELP US!



GRANDFATHER VOLENTE ?* CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S BECOME OF THE GUARDIAN HAWKING ?

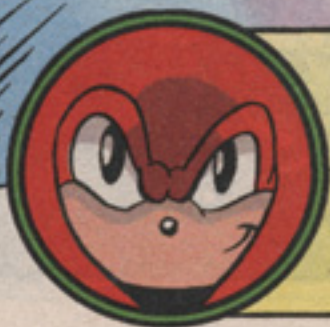
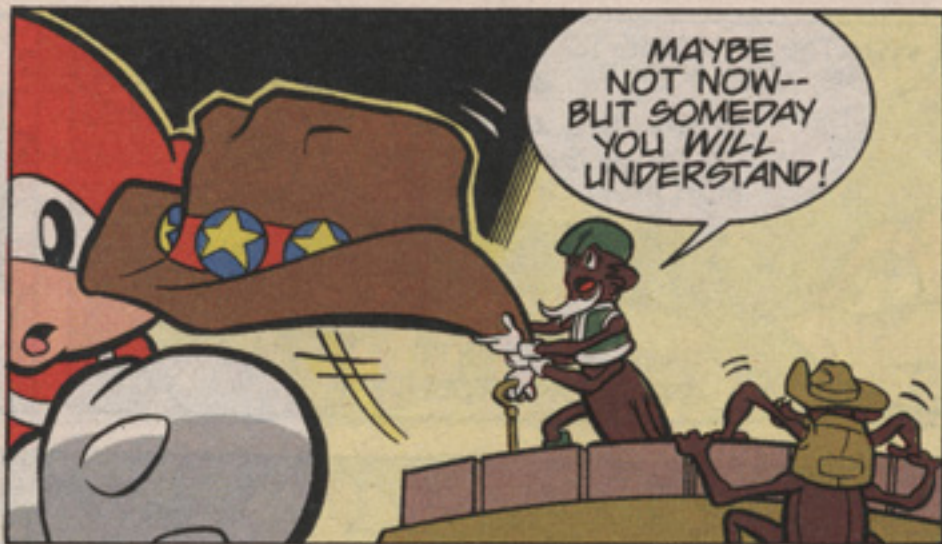
I'M AFRAID HIS FATE IS OUT OF MY HANDS!

*FOR YOU YOUNGER READERS, DEO IS GRANDFATHER VOLENTE'S FIRST NAME--JUSTIN



HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING YOUR GRANDFATHER WANTED YOU TO HAVE, KNUCKLES!

HE'D BEEN SAVING IT FOR SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL!



NEXT: THE RETURN OF **ENERJAK**,
ALONG WITH **The Dark Legion!**

THE DINGOES SETTLE IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS! MORE SECRETS OF
HAVEN! PLUS LARA-LE, JULIE-SU, ARCHIMEDES AND CHAOTIX, OHYEAH,
WE THREW IN KNUCKLES AS A BONUS! BE HERE!

**BECAUSE
YOU
DEMANDED
IT...**



YES!
IT ENDED
SIGN LIKE
A GOOD CHARACTER
EVEN 2

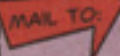
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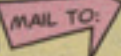


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POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE OF THE FLOATING ISLAND



SONIC #52
On sale AUGUST 1997!



SUPER SONIC
SPECIAL #2
BRAVE NEW WORLD
On sale SEPT. 1997!

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SonicNotes@aol.com



SONIC #53
On sale SEPTEMBER 1997!

Fast and Furious! That's how I'll describe the amount of mail coming in with your **letters page name suggestions**. When **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #7** hits the stands in two months time, it will sport the new letters page name **with the name of the person who 'thunk' it up!**

Speaking of which, it will also mark the return of everybody's favorite echidna villain... **Enerjak!** This time, however, he is not alone as **The Dark Legion** rise with him! Hold on to your hats **Rad Red fans**, this is one for the record books. On other Mobian news...

Next week: Take a walk on the wild side with **Sonic** as he steps into a zone that must be seen for yourself. Written by Tom Rolston. Art by Manny Galan and Jim Amash. Also meet some of the **other Freedom Fighters leaders** of Mobius in this bonus story by Karl Bollers with art by Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash. **SONIC #52 on sale August '97!**

In three weeks: This one has it all, fans. The Freedom Fighters travel into **Robotropolis** to assess the amount of damage done to their former city of **Mobotropolis**. But what kind of surprises await them? And are they friendly or deadly? Also, witness Sonic meet — uh, uh,ahhh — that would be telling. All we can say is that **no Sonic fan would want to miss this issue!** Story and art by Ken Penders.

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #2: BRAVE NEW WORLD on sale September '97!

Knuckles and Sonic... friends? This one must be read. Written and Inked by Ken Penders. Penciled by Art Mawhinney. And if you thought that was all the surprises we had in store for you — there's more! Like the return of Robotnik's mentor, **Warlord Kodos** and the 'supposed' creator of the **Zone of Silence**, wizard extraordinaire, **Ixis Naugus!** Written by Karl Bollers. Art by Sam Maxwell and Pam Eklund. **SONIC #53 on sale September '97!**

FREDDY

Dear Knux,

Don't tell Sonic, but I like you better than I do him. I also think you're cooler. Now it's question time: 1) Do you have a mom? 2) If yes, will she be appearing soon? 3) Is Steppenwolf your dad? 4) Is Kragok your grandpa? Sorry, but I gotta go, I'm reading my Knuckles comic now.

Michael Turner
Hazard, KY

What's doing, Michael? Thanks for the compliment. I'll make sure not to let Sonic know your little secret. Answer time: 1) Yes, I do. And if you read the last two issues... you know, too! 2) See answer #1. 3) No, but I am related to Steppenwolf. He is my grandfather sixteen generations removed. 4) I guess you can say Kragok is my cousin (and an ugly one at that, too).

Dear Knuckles,

Hi! My name is Peta Fenton. I'm probably the biggest Knuckles and Chaotix nut in Australia. I've been collecting Sonic comics (especially yours) for the last two and a half years. Is it possible that there are more echidnas on The Floating Island or on Mobius (besides Athair)?

Peta Fenton (Age 15)
Sydney, N.S.W. Australia

If you asked me that question during my first mini-series, I would've said "No!" Now, I'm not so sure. Since the return of The Dark Legion as well as Echidnaopolis itself, there could, for all I know, be lost tribe of echidnas somewhere.

Hey Knux!

I've got questions I hope you have answers for: 1) Why can't you be nice to Sonic? I know he annoys you but maybe you could ask Princess Sally to talk to him or something. 2) In the third issue of The Dark Legion storyline, when Steppenwolf used the power of the Chaos Emerald to trap a bunch of those echidnas from The Dark Legion in that hole, where did they go? 3) Are you friends with Nack The Weasel? Well, that's all I wanted to know. Thanks.

Steph Larsen
Delta, B.C., Canada

1) I am as nice to Sonic as he is to me. A lot of people ask me why I sucker-punched Dulcy when her and Sonic arrived on The Floating Island (in SONIC #49). I explain to them that if anyone comes onto the island unannounced, I have to assume it's bad. I admit I should have waited to

hear what they had to say before I reacted but "thems the breaks." 2) Steppenwolf created a portal to another zone where he exiled The Dark Legion. We had not heard anything from them in over four hundred years until now. 3) No!!!



Dear Knuckles,

I am one of your biggest fans. I really enjoyed both your mini-series. Here are some questions I've been meaning to ask you: 1) How was Enerjak controlling The Chaotix? 2) How did you know where Espio was in KNUCKLES: The Dark Legion #1? 3) In the beginning of KNUCKLES: The Dark Legion #2, were you and The Chaotix sleeping or did Kragok's men knock you out? I hope your new series is a success! Please tell Charmy Bee my friend Jenny thinks he's cute.

Maria Firippis (Age 12)
firippis@erols.com

Now you see what you did? Charmy's blushing! He's very shy, you know. Back to business, we thank you a bunch for all your good wishes. 1) Enerjak was controlling The Chaotix with his mind. The moment he had his hands full dealing with me, he lost control of The Chaotix minds. 2) Guardian trade secret, I guess. 3) We were knocked out. And none too happy, let me tell you.

Well, that's it for this series. Join us in two months when KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #7 kicks off "The Dark Vengeance" storyline. Be there or be square (whatever that means!).



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